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Moscow Is More Scared Than London

The curious coincidence of spy scares in London and Moscow afford an opportunity to compare the reactions in each capital.

In London, as a result of the Profumo-Keeler affair, involving the suspicion of espionage by one of Miss Keeler's Soviet friends, there are opportunistic demands by the opposition that the Macmillan government resign.

In Moscow, where Colonel Penkovsky's conviction as a spy for Britain has thrown the Kremlin into a tizzy, there is no opposition, so there are no demands that the Khrushchev government resign. But there is a good deal of hysteria and fear, which the Soviet government is systematically sowing among the Soviet people.

The official press recently published a statement (the equivalent of an order in the Soviet Union) warn-

ing unauthorized Soviet citizens to stay away from cocktail parties and any other functions at "certain" foreign embassies. The identity of the blacklisted embassies was not specified, but recent visitors from Moscow disclosed that the order relates primarily to the United States, Britain and other NATO members.

Now the Russians have added the Israeli Embassy to their blacklist by denouncing three Jews for using it as a diplomatic haven to black-market religious articles. To such absurdities have the Russians had recourse in their search for pretexts to establish a wall between Soviet citizens and the handful of foreigners in Moscow.

But the wall is relentlessly being built, just as it was in Berlin, and any Soviet citizen who scales it runs the risk of losing his life. In this regard, Khrushchev is carrying his people back to the days of the Stalin he once denounced.